Shortage of potable water in some districts of West Bengal

2888. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong sub-divisions where there are no facilities of potable filtered drinking water and sanitation, block-wise;

(b) whether Government will agree to frame a Master Plan to provide the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation are State subjects. The State Governments implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual water supply schemes. As such, sub-division-wise and block-wise information is not maintained at the Central level. Government of West Bengal has already prepared a comprehensive action-plan to provide drinking water to all the rural habitations in the next five years, subject to availability of funds.

Allocation and release of funds for West Bengal

2889. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 749 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2000 and state the reasons for huge differences between Central funds allocated and released for rural development schemes during 1999-2000 for West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : The reasons for differences between Central funds allocated and released for the different Rural Development Schemes during 1999-2000 for West Bengal are shown below :

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) : The amount of Central release is less than the Central allocation because a few districts did not lift the Ist and 2nd instalments during the year.